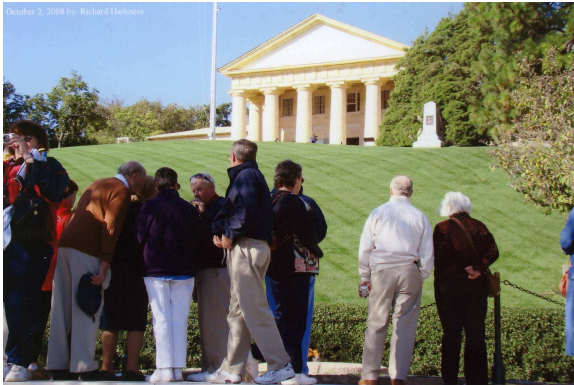
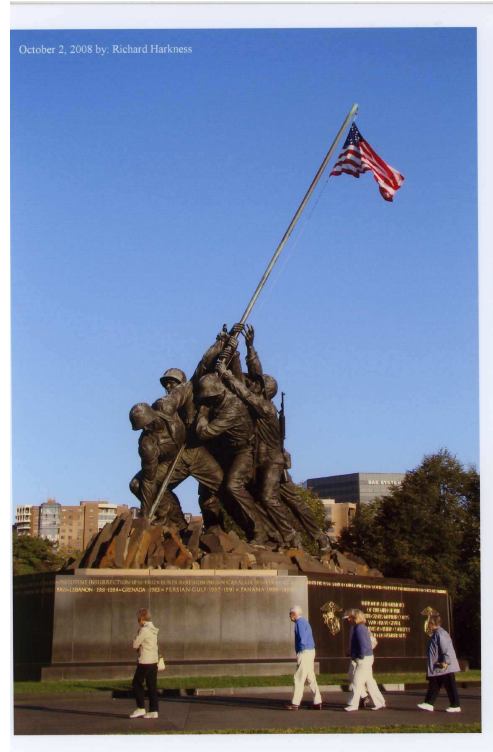


New Market Historical Society D.C. Bus Trip By Jim and Caroll Douglas

It is Thursday, October 2, 2008 and we are up at 4:30 a.m. Who decided that we had to leave at 5:45 a.m.? Well, by 5:30 a.m. there were 44 of us on the bus and at 5:45 exactly we were on the road.

The bus was a Richard's bus from Luray and we settled in for a morning drive to D.C. It was worth the every penny just to have someone else drive. We sped through traffic and arrived soon at our first stop, the U. S. Marine Corps War Memorial (the flag raising over Iwo Jima) before heading off to Arlington National Cemetery. We picked up our Tour Mobile tickets with ten minutes to spare and rode to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the changing of the guard. A few folks took a quick walk across the road to the tomb of Audie Murphy, one of the most decorated WW II soldiers.



Back on the Tour mobile we went back to the Visitor's Center, but were able to stay on the same vehicle and headed up to the JFK and RFK monuments. It was interesting to have two different tour guides as each guide puts

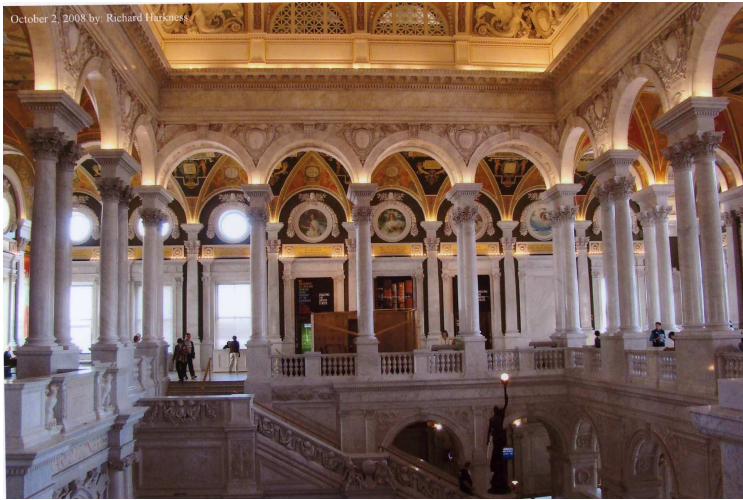
their own spin on what you are seeing. Back to the bus and off to the FDR and Jefferson Memorials. FDR covers his four different terms and many of our guests could remember each phase. Some of us had just heard stories. A few healthy souls were able to visit both the FRD and Jefferson Memorials, but most visited FDR and came back to the bus.



The bus was able to park behind the top floor of Union Station and folks began to see the smorgasbord of restaurants. The refurbished station is not only a great work of art, but also a great place to eat, and you can leave town on Amtrak, the Metro, or the Link to Baltimore. After eating we were off to the Capitol for a tour of the Capitol and a chance to see the Representative Chamber. They were not in session, but we got to see where they work. Of course not having them at work led to some interesting side-comments.



We walked across the street to the Library of Congress, which has been called "the most beautiful place in Washington". Self-guided tours allow us to check out the Gutenberg Bible, which is one of only three perfect copies on vellum in the world, tour the



Great Hall and admire the paintings and architecture. Not only is the building beautiful but also there is a lot to see. Jim's favorite is the Bob Hope Gallery of Entertainment.

Many on the tour also walked next door to the Supreme Court building and looked at the architecture, visited the courtroom where the justices sit and hear oral arguments on appeal from the Federal Appeals Courts the highest state courts with both sides having the same amount of time to state their arguments. The spiral marble and bronze staircase is unique and worth the visit as if is supported only by the overlapping steps and their extensions into the wall.



Back to the bus for a slow drive by the World War II Memorial and then on to the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Lincoln Memorials. By the time we got here many had had enough walking so less than half took the quick walking tour past the Lincoln Memorial, to Vietnam, and then the Korean War Memorial. After a full day in D.C. we stopped at a Cracker Barrel and were back in New Market shortly after by 9:00 p.m. The overall response to the trip was very positive and we will be working on another trip.



Photographs courtesy of Richard Harkness, New Market, VA